

EDITOR'S CORNER

Regional extension centers deserve a round of applause

By Marla Durben Hirsch

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When it comes to the government, everyone's a critic. And of course, the government is low hanging fruit. Putting partisan politics aside, it's pretty easy to rag on the government for mistakes, strategies that fall short, and general shortcomings, like [wasting Medicare dollars](#).



So it's refreshing to take a look at a government program that appears to be working: the regional extension centers (RECs). The 62 RECs were charged with helping physician practices and rural, critical access hospitals adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records. This is not the easiest task, as many providers--especially in rural areas--are not tech-savvy, lack the capital to invest in EHRs, and are suspicious of the federal government.

But [look at what they've done](#) in just three years.

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